14.45 hrs.

WATER (PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF POLLUTION) CESS (AMENDMENT) BILL — *Contd.*

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Gajapathi

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI (Berhampur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I shall resume my speech from where I had stopped yesterday. With the aforesaid backdrop, while thinking of global perspective, we have to think and act locally as well as practically. In this context, I would strongly recommend the following remedial steps. One, employment of environment and pollution control engineers in all industrial areas be made obligatory for checking the growing malady. Two, the industrial effluents, both liquid and gaseous, be suitably treated for rendering them harmless before being discharged into the atmosphere. Three, anti-pollution boards should be equipped with adequate powers so that their officers can deal with the erring establishments with a firm hand. Four stiff deterrent measures be enforced to strictly adhere to the Air Pollution Control Act, 1981, for preserving environmental hygiene.

Furthermore, we must rid our national capital, New Delhi, which is rated as the world's fourth highest-polluted city, of what is termed 'atmosphere Inversion' or perhaps "atmospheric occlusion"from the Latin word 'occludo' meaning by this phenowmenon I hide, the winter season traps cold air with its deadly cocktail of gaseous pollutants, causing the formation of smog and leading of bronchial ailments, from which I myself am now suffering! Jokes apart, Sir, I have lost my normal voice for almost two months now.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly lend my full support to the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess (Amendment) Bill of vital importance and on which depends the very survival of mankind, moved by our vibrant Union Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Hon'ble Shri Kamal Nath.

SHRI BOLA BULLI RAMAIAH (Eluru): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977 was first introduced to have some cess so that we could improve the treatment of the polluted water.

14.47 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

But as things go on, requirement seems to be higher. In view of that, the present Bill seeks to impose some more cess on these things. But the main thing is that we all need clean water. There is no doubt about it. The question of pollution is coming from different places. Pollution comes from industry, cities and municipalities. Even water used in agriculture is polluted after using insecticides and fertilisers and if we use that water for drinking purposes, then it causes lot of problems. So, in this way, a protective system of treatment is very important. The Government also should take interest in such things. The type of treatment, technology and the methodology should be developed either internally through research laboratories or through imported technology so that responsibility is equally distributed between the people and the Government. Without development of industries, we will not have employment potential nor resources development. At the same time, pollution should be controlled very effectively. This is the most important aspect of it. In the name of pollution and environmental conditions, lot of hurdles are created. Even today, some thermal stations are essential though they create pollution which requires proper type of treatment methodology. If we want to live in today's civilisation, we have to develop technology and reduce pollution. Under these conditions, the Government has to take a lot of interest and try to come out with better systems.

As far as the question of cess is concerned, it can be collected provided treat-

[Sh. Bola Bulliramaiah]

ment is done effectively. As regards recycling of industrially polluted water, a better method of technology should be adopted by people and they should be given some concessions and encouraged in that aspect And the cost of this treatment should also be added to the cost of the product. In view of all these things, Government has to work out several methods on how to develop industry and reduce water and air pollution wherever it is possible. We should also develop some industries which are not polluted. Industries like that of electronics should be encouraged so that we can minimise pollution in the present circumstances. This problem has become more and more acute in cities and municipalities and resources are not sufficient for them and they have to be developed. If we ask them for more cess, they will not be in a position to contribute. Here again, Government have to come to their help to solve these problems at a very early stage instead of allowing them to develop further like putting the polluted water into rivers and lakes and affecting further. Today, even agriculture is affected due to use of polluted water. So, industrial pollution, city pollution agriculture pollution and air pollution should be taken into consideration and people of this country have to do something in this regard. At the same time, development should not stop. To some extent, the increase of cess which they are trying is good provided they utilise it properly for the development of technology and encourage people for new process and technology. This is the only way we can develop our civilisation under the present conditions.

With these words, I conclude.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE (Panaji): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess (Amendment) Bill. Sir, I am delivering my speech in Hindi in Parliament for the first time and I will try to express my views in Hindi, which may not be very perfect.

Sir, firstly, I thank Shri Kamal Nath. I have all praise for his far-sightedness and devotion. Everybody will remember this first initiative taken by him to control the pollution. I am calling it the first step because I was a Minister for the last ten years till recently and I don't remember whether Central Pollution Control Board is doing some work there. I have no idea whether any work was assigned to State Pollution Control Board. Had it been done, the pollution would not be so much as it is now. Within less than six months period, of his tenure as Minister he has understood the consequences of pollution and has taken this first step in that direction. I welcome him from the core of my heart.

Hon. Members have discussed and delivered important speeches about the causes and the effects of pollution and have expressed their views as to how it is increasing rapidly. They have clearly expressed before the parliament about the condition of the country in this regard. I am not repeating his words. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the state of pollution in Goa.

Pollution is of two kinds–air pollution and water pollution. Air pollution and water pollution are of equal dimension demanding equal attention. Both are related to each other. Air pollution is increased because of mining dust and explosives. Air pollution is caused by compressures, heavy machines, diesel engines, heavy and other vehicles and barge etc. because of the smoke being discharged from all these equipments. (machines) It is the need of the hour to reduce this pollution.

[*English*]

Mining industry is the backbone of Goa

[*Translation*]

The main reasons behind the flourishing of Goa at present are mining and tourism. Government of India is earning crores of rupees in Goa and the State Government is also earning lakhs of rupees in the form of taxes. Thousands of people are getting employment, so it is necessary to develop industry. For the last forty years the industry is developing day by day, but nobody is bothered about pollution. If the present condition persists, a time will come when all the wells in Goa will be polluted and that time will be a very crucial time. Explosives, dust and waste material of mining flow into the rivers during the monsoon season. In Goa, there are usually heavy rains, nearly 120 inches every year. Goa is connected to nearly all the rivers. I believe such a beautiful place is the result of sheer blessings of Goa. In Goa, one can go from any town to other through waterways. It is the need of the hour to maintain and develop the beauty of the network of these beautiful rivers.

15.00 hrs.

Iron ore extracted from the mines contains powder and it is taken for loading on the steamers through barrage for export. Because of the fast–blowing winds the powder is scattered and goes into the river resulting in accumulation of silt in the rivers. Workers engaged in industries throw all the waste in the rivers. Mining industry has been in existence in Goa for at least 40 years and since then the silting process is also going on in the rivers thus polluting the water. Fishing industry is also there. Agro Industries, pharmaceuticals and Distilleries are also throwing their waste into the rivers. Bold steps are required to taken to control the situation. Tourism is the greatest attraction in Goa. There is abundant beauty including scenic splendour in Goa, so pollution has to be brought under control. There is Sal river which had been used for the last 40 years by ships to carry goods from Konkan to Madgaon. But now the situation is that even small boats can't operate there. Though big–pharmaceutical companies are is talling a treatment plant there at a cost of Rs. 15 crore, yet the smaller units are not in a position to do it. The effluents are absorbed in the ground. After fifty years, all the neighbouring wells are likely to be polluted and there won't be any drinking water. This is a specific point to be considered seriously. With the introduction of this Bill the Government has somewhat increased the cess but it will not serve any purpose. Planning should be in such a manner as the Government may get crores of rupees. The hon. Minister is a very dynamic persons. I appreciate his style of functioning. Mere bringing of Acts won't serve any purpose. The Government should frame a scheme which will not only abate the pollution but may help in its complete eradication. The Government should make arrangements for more funds. It is not only the industrialists, who are responsible for creating pollution, but everybody also is responsible for this evil. Therefore, the taxes should be levied in such a manner on the people responsible for creating pollution as may not be felt as a burden on the masses. The Government should increase its own efficiency of controlling the pollution.

I would like to say something more about Anti–pollution Board. It is like a double–edged sword. It can be both constructive as well as destructive too. If the Government gives all the powers to the Board it can be both destructive to some and helpful to others. The government should form Advisory Committees in each town. For example, Maharashtra is a very big State, it should be divided into 4–5 zones and there should be one committee in each zone. Preference should be given to MPs in these committees, because they are the elected representatives and they take care of their constituencies, moreover they are the people having balanced minds. Thus an Advisory Committee should be formed consisting of the Presidents of the Chamber of Commerce, Exporters Association, Small Scale Industries, Labour Unions etc. I think it will help in the smooth functioning and the credit will go to the government in the matter of Controlling the pollution.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): Should there be the Members of the Oppo-

[Sh. Ram Naik]

sition also or not, in the Advisory Committee?

SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE (Panaji): I said all the MPs, people should be taken into confidence and there should be proper motivation. These two aspects are to be kept in view. The whole of India and the world also will come to know what we can do in order to control the pollution. Therefore, we should take such measures so that even an illiterate person may realise his duty in this direction.

With these words I conclude my speech and congratulate the hon. Minister. I hope he would consider my suggestions.

[*English*]

SHRI A. ASOKARAJ (Perambalur): Sir, on behalf of AIADMK I would like to say a few words on the Bill namely, the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Amendment Bill, 1991.

The word pollution is defined under the Act to mean contamination of water by discharge of any sewage or trade effluent or other substance into water which is likely to create a nuisance or render such water harmful or injurious to public health or safety or to the life and health of the animal, plants or aquatic formations.

Sir, it has got a wide meaning. We have to take necessary action to control water pollution.

The hon. Members have given so many suggestions for controlling water pollution. We are also seeing that in almost in all the places water borne diseases are there. In India, almost 80 per cent of cities' water supply finds it way back to the drainage system. It goes by way of domestic and industrial wastes. Thousands of million litres of waste water finds it way back to the river. It is not being treated.

According to the estimates of World Health Organisation, about 80 per cent of the Third World diseases are transmitted through dirty water. You must have seen that in our own villages or for that matter even in our towns, the industries never treat water and they let the waste water go into the streams or rivers. People and the animals drink water because of which such diseases come.

So, I request the hon. Minister to see that the Board takes it seriously be taking appropriate action. The major cause of pollution in our country is the human waste discharged through the sewage and drains of different cities. This is being done not only in the villages but also in the semi–urban areas. There are also no bathrooms.

On an average the industrial pollution comes to roughly 10 per cent or 15 per cent. Such pollution occurs mainly due to dumping of highly toxic substances into the river. Almost all the industries want that as far as possible, they do not incur any expenditure, by dumping the wastes into the river.

We must give strict instructions to the State as well as the Central Boards that such things do not occur. I am sorry to say that even the Government officials are collaborating with the industrialists. In fact, they are encouraging such things. They are not functioning properly.

The two major sources of water pollution are sewage and sullage from towns and cities and the industrial effluents. I request the hon. Minister, who is very young and energetic, to take initiative in this direction. He should see to it that all the State Governments follow the instructions compulsorily in this regard. If it is done, hundreds and thousands of villagers will get the benefit and they will live a happy life. I would also request the hon. Minister to direct the state Government for giving publicity in the villages. It is because, the villagers do not know the dangers of pollution. We must educate them so that they can understand what water pollution is.

With these few words, I request the hon. Minister to make it compulsory. They should take precautionary measure and see that needful is done for the welfare of the village people.

[*Translation*]

PROF. PREM DHUMAL (Hamirpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome the spirit in which Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess (Amendment) Bill has been brought. Clean drinking water is not available at all the places in the country even after 44 years of independence. It is really a grave problem. Therefore, we should welcome any step that is taken in this direction. But the problem can't be solved by merely bringing laws and bills. It is most important to create an awareness among the people about pollution. Unless a law gets the support and the co-operation of the people, it is useless and it remains confined to the books of law alone.

Last year, the newspapers frequently reported pollution caused by automobile vehicles in Delhi. Many vehicle-drivers were challaned. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are aware of the fact that there is so much of pollution in Delhi due to scooters, buses and motor cars that it is very difficult to travel or to breathe on the roads of Delhi. Although there is a machinery and laws are enacted for the purpose but who is implementing that law? So I believe that if we merely make laws or provide funds for this, it won't solve the problem.

I was going through the details of this Bill. First, the cess has been increased through a very simple formula. There is a proposal that the present rate of cess would be doubled, i.e. where it was 3/4 of a paisa it would be 1 1/2, where it was 1 paisa it has been increased to 2 paisa, from to 2 paisa it has become 4 paisa and from 2 1/2 paisa it has become 5 paisa in the sub-section 2A of section 3, Schedule 2, empowers the officers to impose maximum rate of cess, as a punishment, if the person or industrial establishment does not file its returns. Apparently it appears a very nominal amount but, in fact, it is a heavy burden.

I would definitely urge upon the hon. Minister that it is not at all proper to double the cess on the drinking water for domestic consumption. The Government may charge more from industries where the water is for industrial use as their paying capacity is more. But I would urge the Government to reconsider the question of increasing the rate of cess on the water for domestic consumption.

Besides, the fourth para of statement of Objects and Reasons, says –

[*English*]

> "It is also proposed to empower the officers and the authorities collecting cess to make assessment of the amount of cess where no return is filed. The rate of interest for delay in payment of cess is also sought to be increased."

[*Translation*]

who will be given this power. Possibly these powers may be misused, as the Member from Congress (I) from Goa has also expressed an apprehension that malafide intention may result in misuse of these powers. So I would urge upon the hon. Minister that there must be some provision for appeal against this penalty. A provision may be made in the Bill so that the rates or the rate of interest may not be increased arbitrarily. Moreover, if a person has not been able to file his appeal because of lack of information, the imposed penalty should not be more. Such a provision may please be made in the Bill.

I would like to submit that there is a provision in this Bill for reducing the percentage of rebate from 70 to 25. It is a right step in case of industries, because, I know that the Government needs the money for the implementation of the programme but I would like to urge upon the Government that it

[Prof. Premdhumal]

should allow the present rate of rebate of 70% for the domestic use of water.

Besides, I would say one thing more about which I drew your attention in the beginning itself and that is, mere legislation can't bring about a change. Now–a-days, on the one hand, big industries are increasing pollution in the cities and are bluntly violating the laws. The existing law is also very strict. So if they have to pay a little more money with the increase in cess, it won't bring about any change.

People have developed a particular feeling about the Central Pollution Control Board as if it is another department with a bureaucratic approach. Therefore, I would urge upon the Government to shun this bureaucratic approach and change the style of functioning, so that priority is given to the people with technical knowledge. It will pave the way for such a set up in which the directives of the Central Water Pollution Board which would be sent to the states may be clear and technically sound as well. For setting up such a system, it is essential that there should be a fundamental transformation in the composition of the existing Central Pollution Control Board. The Board should consist of representatives from the States as well. Officers from the States with technical knowledge should also be included in the Board so that the attitude of bureaucracy can be changed. It is essential to reconstitute the Central Pollution Control Board towards achieving the desired objectives.

When I was saying that pure drinking water is not available to the people in most of the areas, one senior Member Shri Basu Dev Acharia had said what to talk of pure water even water is not available at all. I would like to repeat that in fact no pure drinking water is available to the people. Now–a–days, if we dig a well at any place just 300–400 feet deep we can get only polluted water. Government shall have to take proper steps in this direction also.

In this connection, I would repeat that unless Central Pollution Control Board is re–organised, unless the attitude of bureaucracy is changed and unless technical approach is also associated and technocrats are given the top priority, any amendment or law will be futile, it will carry no sense.

So, while supporting this Bill, I would urge upon the Government, as I said in the beginning that cess should not at all be increased on the water for domestic consumption. Its rate should remain unchanged. This matter may please be reconsidered so that poor people get some relief. Secondly, representatives of all the States, and the people with technical knowledge should be included in the Board to ensure the virtual fundamental change in the set up. Mr. Hon. Minister, in view of the tribute paid to you and the support given by all the sections of the House to your Bill, I hope, you will definitely take required initiative in this regard and will reconstitute the Board urgently.

DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR (Nasik) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you at the outset for giving me this opportunity to speak on this Water Pollution Cess Bill.

I rise to support this Bill. Being a medical man, I know the damaging value of polluted water. In our country about 70 per cent of the water is being polluted. The main culprits are ferrous and non–ferrous metta metallurgical industry, petrochemical, fertiliser, rayon industry. In Maharashtra, the end product of the sugar factory is molasses and if it is thrown in the yards, it leads to lot of damages around that area. The Biological Oxidysing Value – what is called BOD value – should be less of the end product. That is why, the end product has to be processed. Now–a–days, in Maharashtra, that molasses has been mixed with cow dunk. And that is how, the BOD value has been reduced.

In 1940, one litre of water was containing 2.5 cubic centimetre of oxygen. But in 1990s, the water is containing only about 0.1 cubic centimetre of oxygen. In our country, in one year, 10 lakh population creates about five lakh litter sewage. The growth of unplanned cities, where no treatment to sewage and suilage has been given, the ground water has been polluted upto the depth of 150 feet.

The oil pollution of sea water has reduced the population of sea animal by about 40 per cent.

According to the WHO statistics, the unpotable water leads to two thirds of diseases. The water born diseases like choluera, gastro, typhoid, jaundice, worm infestation, amoebiasis, filariasis, maleria, encephalitis, conjunctivitis become rampant. Instead of spending lot of money on controlling or treating these diseases,we should try to prevent them by preventing water pollution.

Recently the Supreme Court has upheld the fundamental right – non–polluted water is a fundamental right of an Indian – under Article 21 ' right to live'. So, I suggest to our dynamic Minister that we should organise the exhibitions of poilution so that public education will improve. The involvement of the people must be there. This must be a public movement.

Secondly, for the equipment and machinery, which causes no poilution, I think, we should think of giving some exemption on the excise duty as we are giving exemption for electricity saving equipment. we should think on this line also.

The cess is to be increased from one paise to two paise and the reduction in the rebate is lowered to 25 per cent. I think, this has to have some basis, some principle. I think, this is not a permanent solution.

I would like to know the losses of the Pollution Control Boards and as to how the increase In cess and the reduction in the rebate will create a fresh revenue. How are these going to meet the iosses? This should be thought thoroughly.

Only passing this Bill is not enough for our country. Control and prevention of water pollution requires not only channelising the fiow of city sullage and water waste into the sewerage system but also installation of treatment plant, continuous maintenance and the recurring costs.

The local bodies cannot afford or do not have the finance. Hence, there should be financial support from the State and the Central Governments. If the local bodies resort to independent borrowings, I request the hon. Minister to make a provision in the Eighth Five Year Plan to provide for the necessary allocation for the local bodies. Because of the Ganga Action Plan, the Ganga water pollution has been reduced to 23 per cent. I suggest one thing. In my Constituency, there is a holy river Godavari in Nasik Municipal Corporation Area which is popularly called Dakshin Ki Ganga, where recentaly a Kumb Mela took place, when many Members visited Naslk. I request the hon. Minister to start a Godavari Action Plan on the lines of Ganga Action Plan where the pollution of Godavari from Trimbakeshwar to Paithan will be taken care of, and to provide funds for having this sewerage treatment plants in the Nasik Municipal Corporation.

This Water Cess and rebate is definitely necessary because it is only 1 paise and it has been increased to 2 paise. I support this Bill. In fact,- as he has reduced the rebate,- it is in accordance with the Finance Ministry to reduce the subsidy in our country. At the same time, we have to provide finance for the sewerage treatment plants in all the big cities. At present, only 30 per cent of the population is covered under this facility and there are still about 112 mllion people remaining. If we have to establish sewerage treatment facilities at the rate of Rs. 500 per capita, we will be needing Rs. 5600 crores and that is why I will request the Minister to give a serious though to not only having a Pollution Control Board more powerful but also to give a financial aid to the local bodies, so that they can give a treatment to this sewerage and prevent the water pollution.

With these words, I support the Bill. I wish our young and dynamio Minister will

[Dr. Vasant Niwrutti Pawar]

take care of all the suggestions that I have made. The Water Cess Bill is a necessity of today to prevent the Water pollution. Again, with these words, I think you very much for giving me this opportunity.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI (Robertsganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have been elected from an area which is predominantly inhabited by Adivasis. The people eke out their living from forest produce and are dependent on forests. I do not know whether they are fortunate or unfortunate in having Hindustan Aluminium Company in Sonbhadra which is causing lot of pollution in the area. The entire forest wealth is facing the threat of destruction from this pollution. Besides, there is Kanodia Chemical factory in the area. The effluent from this factory flows into the Rihand dam through Dogia Nullah and from Rihand dam it flows to Renu Sagar and down to Sone river. The water of the river has turned black and has become contaminated. The Adivasis are forced to drink this water and consequently there is a danger of an epidemic spreading in the area. This water is rendering hundreds of people permanant disability of limbs and even making them blind. Numberless people are falling victim to various diseases and are drifting to death. Their number is in thousands now but the Government is not paying attention in this regard.

Renu Sagar which is a thermal power plant owned by the Birlas is also causing immense pollution in the area. This thermal power plant is violating the rules for pollution control. This is adjacent to 880 Rihand reservoir. Recently there was heavy see page from the Ash dam and several houses, particularly belonging to the poor and scheduled castes, collapsed. Many more are collapsing. The people have been rendered homeless. If the said Ash dam collapses the Anpara thermal power plant A & B phase would also be affected and the people residing in Anpara Bazar would also be rendered homeless.

Besides, there are 3-4 cement factories. The Kajarhat Cement factory (Chunar) which is in Mirzapur also falls in our area. The Dala Cement factory and Churuk Cement Factory are also causing lot of pollution. The life of Adivasis and backward classes living nearby has become miserable and difficult. They do not get any jobs what they get is death and destruction. The forest wealth is getting destroyed and depleted. Tendu plant is withering in our area. Even the wild animals and pet animals such as cow, bull, goat etc. are now here to be seen. The Chairman of the Birla Company, Shri Agarwal says that nobody can dare touch them. God knows what will happen. I do not know what nexus he has with the Central Pollution Control Board.

Shakti Nagar Thermal power Station and Anpara Thermal power Station A & B are also responsible for the increasing pollution in the area. The water of Rihand dam which is also called the Pant Sagar dam is also getting polluted. The 10-12 coal mines in our area are also responsible for the contaminated water in Pant Sagar Dam. All the 880 Ash dams near Rihand reservoir have been constructed in violation of rules for pollution control. Bijapur Shakti nagar and Bind nagar thermal power stations are also spreading pollution. Consequently, the crops are being destroyed. The paddy crop has already been destroyed. The fruit trees such as mango, Jamba, Mahua plum do not bear fruits. The plants having medicinal values are also getting destroyed. The pollution is so much that if one travels wearing white clothes for two hours in the area the clothes would turn black. Therefore, I would like to demand through you that the Central Pollution Control Board should carry out thorough investigation in the area where such factories or NTPC projects and other thermal power stations are located. If you associate the area MP also in this, there would be little chance of any bungling. I have already written to the administration in this regard several times but there has been no reply. I know that the Government cannot take action against Biriaji, or his officers or management nor could it take action against NTPC and NCL. Therefore, I would like that the hon. Minister should get the matter investigated and direct the administration to protect the Adivasis and backward classes of Sonbhadra and Mirzapur area from being displaced. They have already been displaced 5-6 times earlier. These adivasis should be safeguarded against pollution. First, they were displaced when NTPC set up its plant. Then the Renu Sagar Power Plant was set up, they were again displaced, and once again they were displaced when NCL was set up. They were neither given any alternative site nor appropriate compensation. They are only getting pollution and more pollution.

Sir, it is the responsibility of the Central Government to provide them alternative site and also provide electricity and drinking water facility. Not only this facility of Hospital and school have also to be provided but nothing has been done so far in this case. I do not want to say much. I only want that you may direct the concerned Ministers to intervene in the matter and protect the people of my area, particularly the natives who belong to backward classes and scheduled castes.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to express my views on this Bill which has been brought about to check water pollution and for the conservation of environment.

This is a very sensitive matter because the new Industrial policy which has been announced has introduced delicensing. The result would be that lot of industries would approach your Ministry for environment clearance. The benefit of delicensing scheme would primarily depend on the way your Ministry function. I think, what will happen as a result of the implementation of the new policy is that multinationals manufacturing chemicals would try to set up those chemical industries in the country which are banned by advance countries. The Ministry of Environment will have to play an important role and if it is done only then would the new policy be not detrimental to the interests of the country.

I do not want to mention here things like the Bhopal Gas tragedy but I would certainly like to say that such industries are banned in foreign countries. Therefore, we should bear it in mind when they apply under the delicensing scheme, the discarded and dangerous chemicals industries should not be allowed to set up in this country. For this, an appropriate procedure will have to be formulated otherwise the entire licensing system would come to a grinding halt. Therefore, the procedure to be followed from the point of view of pollution control will have to be efficient and non-corrupt.

Secondly, what I do not appreciate is levying of tax. We may give it any name, cess or tax, after all it is a tax. Any new tax should be brought when the main proposals for the Budge tare moved. we will have to pass this Bill but I would like to know when it would be implemented. It is true that the Government will fix the date from which it would come into force through a notification but I would like to submit that it should be brought in vogue from 1st April so that the people come to know what new taxes are being levied. My submission is that the Bill should be implemented from 1st April. some hon. Members mentioned about pollution of river water. I belong to Bombay and therefore, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the sea water is also get pollution? Incidentally, the hon. Chairman who is presiding at the moment is also from Bombay. There was a time, about 10-15 years back when we used to go for swimming to Mahim and Dadar sea beaches. There used to be no problem except that the sea water was saline but today we do not even dare to think of it because no one knows what skin disease or other disease one may catch there is one swims in that water. Such is the extent of pollution there. Not much thought is being given to the checking pollution of sea water. The fishermen have to venture 15 to 25 kilometres in the sea to catch the fish because fish cannot survive in polluted water

[Sh. Ramnihor Rai]

which is near the sea shore. Therefore, I would like to urge the Government to formulate a scheme to check pollution of sea water.

The Pomphret fish which is available in big hotels is called Poplate in Marathi. This is said to be the best fish available in our country. There is a port called satvati in my area and lot of this fish was available there but during the last six-seven years the production of fish there has gone down. We used to earn a lot of foreing exchange from the export of Pomphret fish. Therefore, I would draw your attention to the pollution of sea water and would like the Government to take effective steps in checking it.

The Government has imposed a cess on drinking water. I would iike to submit that people should at least get drinking water and air free of cost. One can understand if tax or cess is imposed on an industry engaged in production because the industry earns profit and the Government bears in mind all these things. I will come to that later. Regarding cess on drinking water I would also like to submit as many other hon. Members have done that there should be no cess on it. This is my humble request.

Amendments were moved after the Bill was introduced. This is not the general practice. Sir, I have been given an opportunity to speak at the end but I would like to submit that the Government should make an announcement to reduce cess on drinking water. I had given an amendment to an amendment. Without taking more time of the House on this subject, I would like to conclude by saying what is most important is that the Government had seriously thought in this direction and brought this Bill in August. But what i fail to understand is that why an amendment to the Bill was brought after a lapse of two months when the Bill had already been introduced in the House and was being discussed. The amendment was that in the schedule of Industrial intoxicant the rate of cess was 9 1/2 paisa instead of 7 1/2 paisa. Was it an after thought. I would like the hon. Minister to inform the House how this increase is justified?

My suggestion is that keeping in view the sentiments expressed by several hon. Members of the House the cess of 9 1/2 paisa which is too much should be reduced to 9 paisa only. Besides as I said,

[*English*]

do not take the House so casually.

[*Translation*]

Bringing an amendment at the fag end of the discussion on the Bill is not a healthy practice. I therefore, demand that the 9 1/2 paisa cess should be reduced to 9 paisa. Besides the proposal to levy cess on drinking water should be withdrawn. With these words, I conclued.

[*English*]

DR. VISWANATHAM KANITHI (Srikakulam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak on this Bill. We have pollutions of many kinds. We have water pollution, air pollution and noise pollution. Now, we are dealing with the amendment to the Water Pollution Act. This cannot be the sole responsibility of a single Ministry or Department. Firstly, it must be the responsibility of all the individuals especially those who are responsible for any kind of pollution. All individuals drinking the water must have the responsibility and all groups who are assisting to provide water must also feel the responsibility. All organisations supplying the water must have the same responsibility and all concerns which are likely to pollute water must have a greater responsibility.

As many hon. Members have pointed out, water can produce communicable diseases. So, prevention is better than cure. After the introduction of water technology mission in the Seventh Five Year Plan, the pottable water supply to the rural masses had considerably increased. The water supply for the masses must be stepped up so that all the people especially in the rural farflung areas can get pure and unpolluted water. As we all know, we require air, water and food. We may not be able to supply the food free to the people, but we must be able to supply the water. Then, regarding the cess many hon. Members have mentioned as to how it has been increased and why it has been increased. We have so many cess like road cess, education cess and oil cess. Now we have water cess. To my knowledge, the other cesses are not being utilised for the purposes for which they are being collected; for example the road cess is not being utilised for the development or for the extension of roads. This cess must be utilised for the educative and awareness programme for all those people who need to be made aware of it. Pollution control awareness must be created at an early age among the children. If it is included in the syllabus and if they know about it and feel their responsibility in controlling pollution, in their regular life, when they set up industries etc., they will take care of pollution.

Regarding the Ministry of Environment, many people are thinking that the Ministry of Environment and Forest is a stumbling block for the development of industry, agriculture or other operations. This should not be there and this impression should not continue also.

This Cess must be utilised for the education, orientation of the industrialists and re-orientation of all those people who are dealing with water and prevention of pollution, especially water pollution.

With this, I request the hon. Minister who has moved the Amendment Bill to make suitable allowances for the prevention and control of water pollution. With this, I support the Bill.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): While supporting the Bill, I would like to make a brief observation with regard to some particular phenomenon to which one day I did draw the attention of our hon. Minister, Kamal Nathji.

There are very many aspects of pollution. But one aspect which has really become an acute problem as I see in all the big cities, is the diesel fume that emanates from Government vehicles, from the taxis and from almost every other vehicle. For example, few days back, on Saturday, I had been to Calcutta. Unfortunately there was a big traffic jam for four hours. Though from Howrah Station to my house is four kms. it took four hours to reach. For all these four hours, it was totally full of diesel fume. This is not particular to Calcutta only. Even in Delhi, which is much less congested than Calcutta, if you walk on the busy road, this is really a very big problem. Unless he takes it up very seriously with our friend, Shri Tytlerji, it is difficult to resolve this problem. There was a lot of debate earlier also about amending the Motor Vehicles Act. Cars are also going to increase, whatever we may be saying to Dr.Manmohan Singh. Therefore, this menace is going to increase. Therefore, this is one point to which I want to draw particular attention of the House and the hon. Members.

Another thing is, I believe in this environment protection, women can play a great role as also school children. I had been to one of the prize distribution ceremonies as many of us go. There I suggested, let there be a competition. Every child of the school must account for one tree at least, along with the talent. Even it can be accounted for the school in which he or she has done it.

16.00 hrs.

[SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARAYA *in the Chair*]

This cannot be done compulsorily or punitively. But it can be definitely cultivated particularly among the students.

Shri Kamal Nathji should be gracious enough to come out with special incentives to the women by declaring that every village where the largest number of trees are planted

[Smt. Geta Mukherjee]

by women will get a special prize and special citation. A spirit of competition among women can thus be created.

Other points are there. I will not go in for any other points. Some incentive, motivation and control are very urgent.

I urge upon the hon. Minister through you, Madam, to look into it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: May I ask the hon. Minister Shri Rameshwar Thakur to make a statement?

16.01 hrs

STATEMENT BY MINISTER—*Contd.*

Foreign Exchange Remittances and India Development Bonds Schemes

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): In his budget speech on 24.7.91, Finance Minister had announced two schemes for attracting foreign exchange from abroad in the form of remittances of foreign exchange and foreign exchange bonds. Even though the Finance Minister had announced that the two schemes will come into effect immediately, after the budget speech, it was represented to Government that before the schemes were formally launched, the necessary imminities to be granted for the purposes of these two schemes should first be given effect to by the passage of the relevant legislation in the Parliament. Accordingly, the Remittances of Foreign Exchange and Investment in Foreign Exchange Bonds (Immunities and Exemptions) Act, 1991 (41 of 1991) was passed by this August House in the first half of September, 1991, and the Act, received the Presidential assent on 18.9.91.

Initially it had been the intention of the Government to allow atleast 4 months time *for the operation of these two schemes, so that there would be sufficient time for the information regarding these two schemes to* reach the Non-resident Indians in all the corners of the World and to allow them sufficient time to send the remittances, or to invest in the bonds. The time actually available after the Presidential assent has been just over two months and we have received a number of representations from Non-resident Indians, and their........ relatives In India requesting for an extention of these two schemes. The Indian High Commissioner at London and other Indian Embassies and High Commissioners have also pressed for the extension of these two schemes at least by two more months.

In the light of these requests and representations, and in keeping with the original intention of the Government to allow at least 4 months' time for these schemes to operate, it has been decided to extend these two schemes upto 31st January 1992.

As a result, the specified date for the purpose of remittances in Section 2 (1) (b), and in Section 5 (1) of the Remittances of Foreign Exchange and Investment in Foreign Exchange Bonds (Immunities and Exemptions) Act, 1991 has, by a Gazette notification today, been specified as 1st February 1992, before which the remittances should be received In India, or the investments in Foreign Exchange Bonds should be made abroad. A copy each of the two Gazette notifications issued today is laid on the table of the House. [Placed in Library *See* No. LT-770/91].

Similarly, in the case of the scheme (also announced in Finance Minister's Budget speech) under which any person having unaccounted money would be allowed to make a deposit with the National Housing Bank on or before close of business on 30th November, 1991, the Voluntary Deposits (Immunities and Exemptions) Act, 1991 (47 of 1991), which provides the necessary immunities, was passed by this august House in the second half of September, 1991, and tha Act received the Presidential assent on 20.9.91. It was the intention of the Government to allow four months' time for the operation of this scheme also. This scheme was also formally launched only on the 1st of October, 1991. Accordingly, it has been decided to extend this scheme also upto 31st January, 1992. As a result, the specified date for the purpose of Section 2(a) of the Voluntary Deposits (Immunities & Exemptions) Act, 1991 has, by a Gazette Notification today, been specified as 1st February, 1992, before which the deposits can be made under the Voluntary Deposits Scheme. A copy of that Gazette notification issued today is also laid on the table of the House [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-771/91]

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali): What was the amount granted and how much amount has been remitted in both the Schemes? (*Interruptions*)

SHIR NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): In his Budget Speech, it was stated by the Finance Minister that he is giving one last chance. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay-North): I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ram Naik is raising a point of order. Please allow him to raise it.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Madam, whenever such statements are made, the House has to be informed in advance. Now that was not shown in the Order Paper today. Further, whenever such statements are made, at least a note is circulated here saying that the Minister would make a statement. That has also not been done. How will the Members know that such an important statement is being made? At least, the House deserves some courtesy from the Government of this information. On the Television Screen outside, it was shown. That is not sufficient. When the facility is there, we should be informed by a cyclostyled notice saying that the statement is going to be made. I want to know why it has not been done. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Kindly permit me. He is absolutely right in raising this issue. The House deserves some kind of a courtesy. But, apart from that, if you can recollect, the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech and subsequently also said that one last chance is given to those who accumulate unaccounted money. That last chance seems to be extended from the earlier four months period by another two months taking it to a period of six months. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The point of order has been made. The point of order has been noted. But this statement was made with the assent of the Speaker.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: That is all right. Let me say that this is really not a point of order but it is a point of courtesy. The House deserves some kind of a courtesy. The hon. Minister should take note of it. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not usual to ask any question on the Minister's statement.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: On important issues, we can ask questions. He is trying to garner foreign exchange from the NRIs who acquired it in a black way. The rumours are that there will be a third devaluation of currency. That also is not allowing any flow of funds from the NRIs. I think, if the hon. Minister is serious enough, he should respond to it. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee, if you want a discussion on this, there is a proper procedure for that.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: No. I would like to say that I am in agreement with him that foreign money should come.

[Sh. Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee]

But there is a widespread speculation that we are on the brink of a third devaluation. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: (Dum Dum): Would he assure us and the country that we are in for no more devaluation? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali): The hon. Minister should have informed the House about the targets of the two schemes and how much amount has been received and also about the failure of the Government to receive the requisite amount. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The point has been taken note of. Please sit down. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Rule 373 is very much specific. And there is also an established precedent that no question can be put and no debate can be allowed on a statement. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ahamed, I have already said that.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI E. AHAMED: Why is it going on like that? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Now the hon. Minister has made a statement. May we know from the hon.Minister whether there will be one more extension of time? Already there is one extension. Now there is going to be another extension. May we know about that? (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Trichur): I want to raise a question. Already large number of people have represented for the extension for this society and representations have been received by the Minister also. Now what is going to be the impact of this decision. What about the report of third devaluation?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH (Sheohar): It has come in the press: "Third devaluation of the rupee on cards". (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: We cannot have a debate on this at this moment. It has been admitted by the Speaker. Please take your seat.(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: The House must be assured that there will be no further devaluation.(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you please allow me to speak? Under the Lok Sabha rules, the Speaker may permit a Minister to make an important statement without an entry being made in the list of business. An objection that an item of major policy statement must always be entered in the list of business, is not valid. However, the Members can ask for a discussion on the Minister's statement under Rule 193.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you go on like this, you would not be able to hear each other. Please sit down.

(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): My statement is self-contained and there is no need for further discussion or a debate. However, I would like to mention one point which is a deviation from the statement but connected with the third devaluation. In this connection, I would like to make it absolutely clear that there is no question of any third devaluation.

The Government's attention has been drawn to a news item in a prominent daily suggesting the possibility of a further devaluation of the rupee following discussions with the IMF by the Governor of the RBI. There is no basis whatsoever for the report. Governor RBI visited Washington as part of a foreign tour covering Tokyo, New York and London. During his visit he held routine discussions with the World Bank and the IMF. The discussions with the IMF related to the current arrangements with the Fund for an Upper Credit Tranche Standby arrangement of $ 2.2 billion over a 20-month period which was approved by the Board of the Fund on 31st October this year.(*Interruptions*) The subject of devaluation was never raised at any stage. In fact, as part of the understanding with the IMF, Government is committed to policies which will ensure stability of the current exchange rate. Officials of the IMF have noted with satisfaction the significant increase in our foreign exchange reserves over the past two months. I would like to mention here what our Prime Minister has mentioned a few days ago about our foreign exchange reserves having gone upto Rs. 6,000 crores. I am very happy to say that as on today the foreign exchange reserves are more than Rs. 6,700 crores. Yesterday, under the scheme we have received Rs. 220 crores as remittances.

The factual position has been ascertained from Governor RBI and also from Shri G.K. Arora, India's Executive Director in the IMF, who was present during all the discussions of the Governor with the IMF. Both have confirmed that neither the officials of the IMF, nor those from the Indian side ever raised the issue of an exchange rate adjustment. They have added that this issue did not figure in any way in the discussions with the Fund officials.

It is unfortunate that a prominent daily has made this statement without verifying the facts either from the Governor RBI or from Shri Arora or from the Finance Ministry. So this is unfounded.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum): You have premised to lay the conditionaiities on the Table of the House.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: We are going to place it at the right time. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you all talk together, then no one can be heard.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: An assurance had been given by the hon. Prime Minister and the Finance Minster stating that the conditionalities of the IMF will be placed on the Table of the House. Now may I know when that assurance will be given effect to?

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: On behalf of the hon. Finance Minister, I reassure the House that theose papers will be laid on the Table of the House at the right time.(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Madam, I would like to ask the Minister......

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. I have not allowed you. Now we can get back to the business on hand and if the Members so wish, they can ask for a discussion under Rule 193 on the Minister's statement.

(*Interruptions*)

16.20 hrs.

WATER (PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF POLLUTION) CESS (AMENDMENT) BILL. *CONTD.*

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now Mr. A. Charles

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): Madam Chairperson, I stand to support the Water (Prevention and control of pollution) Cess (Amendment) Bill 1991. The Bill has been brought with a very limited purpose of increasing the maximum rates of water cess and also for reducing the rebate in cess in certain conditions. As stated in the Objects

[Sh. A. Charls]

and Reasons, the workload of the Pollution Control Boards has substantially increased and as a result the financial burden has also increased.

There is no point in opposing the increased rates now proposed in this Bill. I may humbly give a word of caution to the hon. Minister that this fund collected shall not have the fate of the Central Road Fund. Several crores of rupees have been collected under the Central Road Fund; but the Finance Ministry has so far not given the necessary clearance to disburse it to the State Governments thereby the due shares of the States have not so far been released. So I suggest that whatever is collected under this fund should be given to the appropriate Boards so as to enable them to implement the provisions of the parent Act in a more meaningful manner.

While supporting this Bill I may draw the attention of the hon. Minister that it is very unfortunate that thought several years have passed after the central law had been passed, there are certain States which have not passed the necessary legislation for implementing the provisions of this Bill. I would request the hon. Minister to give a categorical reply as to which are the States that have not passed the necessary legislation and the States which have not come forward for implementing these very important provisions of the Act. It is the duty of all the States to pass the necessary legislation to see that the provisions are implemented.

As we all know, there are many industries which have been continuously violating the provisions relating to pollution control. Such industries have to be identified and very stringent action taken on such erring industrialists. So also we have to avoid the discharge of untreated effluence into rivers and even to the sea. So also the discharge of untreated sewage into the sources of water meant for public consumption has created a serious threat to the health of especially the people in the rural areas. It is realiably learnt that the Government is contemplating a Central River Action Plan with the object of clearing river water pollution with the active participation of the State Governments. If my information is correct, it is going to be a very ambitious scheme, costing about Rs. 100 crores. In this context, I would like to draw the attention to a very serious matter relating to my Constituency, Trivandrum, the capital of Kerala.

Travancore Titanium Products is a very prestigious industry which is monopoly. It is in Trivandrum situated on the side of the ocean. Large quantities of Sulphuric Acid waste, which is the main effluent is being discharged into the sea for the last more than 25 years. Time and again we have been requesting that industry to make use of the latest technology for treating Sulphuric Acid. Due to the discharge of this effluent, several kilometres of the sea is contaminated. I would request those who fly over Trivandrum in future to see the beautiful blue ocean, at the time of landing. several kilometres of the ocean has become yellow and fish also cannot survive there. Several thousands of traditional fishermen are jobless now.

There is a report saying that the incidents of cancer is the highest in Trivandrum. One report based on research, published in the paper was alarming which says that it is because of this pollution that the incidents of cancer has increased in Trivandrum. So, I would appeal to the Government of India to take up this matter urgently with the State Government and see that the effluent which is now being discharged into the sea from Trivancore Titanium Products is treated. It is a very profitable industry. If the Profit for just one year is made use of, for obtaining the latest technology to treat the effluent, this Problem can be overcome. I would request them to do this which is important.

I think that the Government is now contemplating on the National River Action Plan. Here I would request the Minister to let the House know the result of the Ganga Action Plan. That prestigious project was announced by our beloved late Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi. That was one of the dreams of Rajivji costing about Rs. 250 crores. If he were in this House, he would have received the joy to see the report that 23 per cent of the water has been purified. But still, yesterday there was yet another news item in the paper which says that the water in the Hooghiy river is not good even for washing and bathing, not to speak of drinking Purposes. So, I would like to know as to what has happened to the Ganga Action Plan.

In 1988, as a Member of one of the Parliamentary committees, I had an occasion to go to Varanasi, where we had been taken through the Ganga river for about 15 kilometres. It was a very short distance and there, even the half-burnt dead bodies were thrown into the Ganga river. There are about 27 cities and from all the 27 cities, the effluent from the industries are being diverted into the Ganga river, the pure water of this great country. So, I would request them to let us know as to how that will be monitored and as to what is happening to the Ganga Action Plan.

My last point is this and this is very important. In Kerala, Ernakulam and Alleppey are the waterlogged areas. seasonally, several crores of rupees worth fish is being caught there. Six months back, there was an epidemic type of disease and several crores of rupees worth fish is dead. People are not taking fish from there due to the fear that it is not useful for human consumption. The situation is still alarming. One report coming from the Cochin University's Biochemistry Department has revealed that it was due to the indiscriminate use of pesticides for the cultivation of paddy which is responsible for the large scale mortality of fish. Quite surprisingly, in spite of that report,some lobbies are working against it. They are not doing anything to implement the recommendations of that research body.

MR. CHAIRMAN:Mr. Charles, there are four other Members from your party alone who want to speak. So, please wind up.

SHRI A. CHARLES: I will conclude, Madam.

In Kerala, it is a very serious problem. All the national dalies have covered it. So, I would request the Hon. Minister to take urgent action to prevent large-scale mortality of the fish in that area so that pollution is avoided. With these words, I conclude. I thank you for the opportunity given to me.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Madam Chairperson, this Bill has not to be opposed much except the increase in the cess on water for domestic use. There is need to think several times before increasing the cess. We have not been able to provide drinking water in most of the villages and the water which is being provided in the cities is highly polluted. The people in most of the big cities are suffering from fatal diseases. So it is not proper to increase cess on water for domestic use. The Government needs to think it over seriously.

Madam, I want to say it also that work of Pollution Control Board is increasing and for that you are increasing cess. It is not much objectionable. But in my opinion there is a need to increase its activities and sphere. The pumping sets which have been provided in the far flung areas are being used in old vehicles to carry passengers. With the result, the pollution has been rapidly increasing in the rural areas also. The unthoughtful increase in the capacity of auto production has resulted in pollution in villages also alongwith the cities.

Madam I have read a news that every person born in north Delhi, Through a nonsmoker suffers damage caused by smoking one and a half packet of cigarette because of pollution and a person residing in west Delhi falls a fiction of pollution equivalent to smoker of the one packet of cigarette. The increase in the number of autos is responsible for polluting the air. This is that state of affairs in Delhi. So there is a need to increase the activities and sphere of the pollution control

(Sh. Mohan Singh)

board because Central Government is going to lift the ban on setting up new industries and manufacture of private vehicles.

Madam, number of roads is not increasing. Private vehicles are increasing day by day resulting in continuous pollution on roads. Madam, in connection with the rivers, I would like to say that in olden times in India civilization developed on the bank of rivers but now the small industries and factories are developing on the banks of rivers and the effluents of these industries are being flown into these rivers. That is why they are deadly polluted.

Madam, Central Government started a master plan to clean. The Ganga but no plan was started in its tributaries like Ghaghra etc. so all the money spent on cleaning the Ganga has gone waste because its tributaries bring effluents with them and pollute the Ganga water and Ganga gets polluted automatically.

If the Minister and the employees of his department go to Agra and see the plight of the river Yamuna which flows beside Delhi, they will realise the situation as to how the people are forced to drink this polluted water? Even the animals are dying after taking this water. As a result of it more than seven hundred people are suffering from jaundice in Agra city. Despite the repeated directives of the Supreme Court of India for setting up pollution control plants in distilleries and leather industries no concrete step has been taken in this regard because of the carelessness and negligent attitude of the Central Government and its pollution control department. The orders of the Supreme Court are continuously being violated. All the distilleries, whether they are in Uttar Pradesh or Madhya Pradesh, are creating the same problem. I witnessed it in Bhilai. The Supreme Court directed the Government of India to ensure the installation of pollution controlling plants in the factories but no initiative has been taken by the pollution central department in that direction. Kanpur is the biggest industrial city on the river Ganga in Uttar Pradesh. The Supreme Court of India has repeatedly directed all the leather industries situated on the bank of Ganga to set up the pollution control plants on the one side central Government is spending billions of rupees to clean the water of Ganga but on the other the leather industries, tanneries are polluting the Ganga Water by discharging their effluents into it in large quantity. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what initiative has been taken by the Government and the Pollution Control Department to save the river Ganga in Kanpur from pollution in the light of the Supreme Court Orders.

The owners of the small tanneries say that they are unable to set up such costly equipments. I would like to suggest that pollution control board should set up a big plant on its own expenditure and impose tax on tanneries according to their capacity. I think in this way the pollution can be controlled. In the same way there are small tanks in the villages and its water is used for drinking and bathing. Pollution board should frame a scheme to deepen all these tanks and lakes. It should also consider dredging out sift from the rivers. Unless we take these measures seriously we can not control the pollution of the river water.

With these words, I support this Bill but request the hon. Minister to reconsider the cess imposed on the domestic use of water.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Madam, Chairman, I am opposing two points. Firstly the tax should not be imposed on domestic water. Secondly, I oppose the provision relating to reduction of reboli in cess from 70 per cent to 25 per cent. I request that this Bill is not only related with water but with sound and air also. The smoke of petrol and diesel may cause cancer. This Bill should have been brought long ago. The principal Act has remained ineffective. There is no control over industries or any other thing. The reason is that water works employees are appointed as members of the Water Pollution Board. It is a kind of punishment. So they fail to perform their duty efficiently.

The Bill proposes to increase the rates. Though the rebate in cess has been reduced from 70 per cent to 25 per cent, yet the persons who use water in large quantities will not be entitled to this concession. Secondly you have also made a provision under section 25 to punish those who violate the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. You are also going to authorise the officials to fix the amount of cess on those who do not submit their details. You are also going to increase the market rates. I oppose the reduction in concession and imposition of cess on the water for domestic use.

This Biil is not an effective Bill. I wish to suggest some measures to made it move effective. Special Environment Courts should be set up and their jurisdiction should be extended. They should not be constituted beyond the district level. The factories which cause pollution should be held responsible for paying the compensation. Due to this provision the factory owners or consumers will positively install the pollution control plants. Stern action should be taken against the officials who fail to perform their duties.

70 percent of the available water in the country, is polluted. Two third diseases are caused due to polluted water. About 36 crores people drink contominate water. Rest of the water is also going waste. Exhibitions should be arranged regarding water pollution. 70 percent concession should be given to those who have installed pollution central plants satisfactorily. According to a decision of the Supreme Court, no licence should be given to those industries which do not make proper arrangements for their effluents. There should be afforestation on large scale on the banks of the rivers. Sullage of the factories is mixed up with the water of the rivers during the rainy season. Those who use the water should be made responsible for its cleaning. Generally 10 lakh people produce 5 lakh tonnes excrement (filth). There is 80 lakh tonnes excrement produced daily in India. 142 cities of India have treatment plant 62 cities have these plants partly and 72 cities do not have them at all. I would like to suggest that these treatment plants must be installed in cities. The people who use water must be compelled to have water treatment plant.

Permission should not be given to establish such factories which cause pollution on the bank of Narmda, the life giving river of Madhya Pradesh.

In my constituency, Jaipur pollution is caused by water, sound and air. This problem should be done away. Five places of Jaipur where people get water from well, the gutter water mix up with it ans so the pollution is caused. Tempo Smoke causes air and sound pollution. The Rajasthan Government has sent a scheme of Rs. 514 crores 60 lakh to the central Government on 26.6.90 for approval seeking financial aid from I.D.A. for water supply and sewerage system in 6 cities. It is still pending with the Central Government. I request that the loan should be arranged from the World Bank for this scheme.

In the end, I would again like to submit that no cess should be imposed on water and the rebate should not be reduced from 70 to 25 per cent, First, the law should be made strong then it should be considered in the next session.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Since there are still about 8 speakers who have put in their names, may I request them to confine themselves to five minutes time limit.

KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO (Sundargarh): Madam Chairman, this Bill will go a long way In controlling the water and air pollution. Water and air pollution is a matter of serious concern all over the world due to rapid growth in industrialisation. Most of the industries that have come up on the river banks simply drain out their polluted water into the

[Kumari Frida Topno]

river causing serious threat to the health of the people using the river water.

Secondly, the factories which are remitting dust particles, whether these are steel or cement factories, have become real challenge to our lives. What is more painful is that our public undertakings also do not follow pollution guidelines. Glaring examples being the Rourkela Steel Plant in my Parliamentary constituency, Sundargarh which not only remots steel dust particles but also drains out polluted water directly into the river Brahmani. What to peak about the private industrial concerns like, the Orissa Cement Ltd, Rajgangpur and other cement factories in my district. They are remitting dust particles and are thus polluting the air.

My submission to this august House, through you, is that when we cannot provide drinking water to all, we have no right to pollute to same thereby causing health hazards. While penalising those industries causing water and air pollution, why must also provide all medical facilities to those affected by such violation of pollution rules. Especially, the villages who are living round about the Rourkela and Rajgangpur Cement Factories are suffering from Tuberculosis and other such diseases. So, the owners of Steel and Cement factories should take care of them, I request the Government of India, through you, Madam, to intervene in this matter.

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI (Bellary): Madam, Chairman, I welcome the Bill. I thought that it would have been more comprehensive than what has been brought before the House. Madam, the Government is seriously thinking of levying cess on the domestic water and also on the water which is being supplied to the industries. Before I come to the subject of the Bill I would like to say that there is a saying in Karnataka: "Tungpanna Ganga-snnana". Ganga snnan is as precious as it was before. Likewise to bring water from Tungbadra is equally good.

Now, it appears to me that both *Ganga Snana* and *Tunga Pana* has been polluted. Many Members have spoken about how Ganga water has been polluted. I am coming from a place where Tungabhadra river flows. I would like to say here how Tungabhadra has been polluted. It has been polluted because of Poly Fibres coming from Harihar. So, this water is polluted; the air is polluted for miles together from Harihar to the point where it reaches Krishna river. People who would like to drink this water could not drink nor could they take bath. Many sugar factories are there on the bank of the river. The molasses have been thrown into the river and also some industrial wastes. Because of flow irrigation, the pestisides, the fertilizers and other things are polluted. The water is so much polluted that when it reaches the river, it pollutes it. When we take bath, the whole skin gets irritated. So, this is the affair to Tungabhadra river. He should be in a position to reply as to how he is going to avoid pollution.

In olden days, there was no drinking water in Raichur district. Mostly, it has got only black soil. Even the water there is black. Therefore, our forefathers have been able to build villages on the shore of this river. Now, most of the villagers who drink this water are very much in trouble. Therefore, I would like the hon. Minister to reply as to how he is going to avoid such pollution.

Madam, we are short of sponge iron. We are importing scrape. We are in a difficult position as far as foreign exchange is concerned. But while giving licenses, is it necessary that or based sponge in plant should be set up in the city premises? How can a person live with so much smoke? The sponge iron causes a lot of pollution. In Bellary city, one sponge iron plant is coming up. I do not know who has given the licence for that plant. Such things should be looked into before we deal with this Bill.

As far as environment is concerned, we are giving a lot of attention to environment. I am very much interested, if children are taught, from the very beginning, how to grow a nursery. In Karnataka, there has been a very big scheme which has been worked out for growing nurseries at the primary school level. Children are asked to grow nurseries. They have been selling nurseries. Whatever amount they get, they spend for the betterment of the school. So, they have a love and affection for growing of trees. Such schemes should be taken up on a priority basis so that environment is very much protected.

Madam, due to industrial wastes and so many other things, there is water pollution. What about air pollution? Due to industries and so many other things, there is air pollution. What about human pollution? When we enter the villages, we find there is human pollution. How are we going to tackle this? It creates a very bad scene for a person who wants to walk into the villages. What about sanitation?What about drinking water is urban areas? We have no adequate drinking water supply in the villages. We have sewage Boards. What about their maintenance? There are many cases where drinking water is mixed up with sewage water. i have seen from my own eyes, how sewage water is mixed up with the drinking water. It amounts to a lot of Gastroenteritis. Such cases detected in the urban cities. Regarding sanitation, the municipalities do not care to remove the garbages and they also do not care to clear the drains. It should be cleaned. All these things are not looked Into properly. Even now flush out laterines are not there. Until we look into all these things, we cannot avoid this pollution.

Regarding levying of cess, it is not clearly stated whether a person, if he puts his own borewell or any other thing for industrial use or for domestic use, will that water also be subject to levy. It is not told clearly.

It is not told properly what is the mechanism to measure it? How many persons or industries consume it? That mechanism has not been clearly stated in this Bill.

Since you are going to ring the bell, I do not want to take much time of the House. I would request the hon. Minister to see that hereafter pollution in the water and the drinking water and the water which has been supplied to the cities is taken care of. Otherwise, these is no use of putting this cess until we provide them with clean drinking water in sufficient quantity. These points should be answered by the hon. Minister.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI (Kodarma): Madam Chairman, much has been said in this regard. So, I do not want to go into details but I think it is necessary to say that water is a basic necessity of life and if the water is polluted, the whole environment gets disturbed. But I am very sorry to say that anti pollution water programmes and many other such programmes were started and crores of rupees were spent but the desired result are still beyond our reach. But this Bill is only related to the cess. In this connection, I would like to say that before revising the rate of cess, it is very essential to consider the reasons that are causing pollution and those reasons should be done away for example, the industries located on the banks of the rivers are polluting the river water but the non-compliance of the existing laws and rules framed in this regard is making the whole atmosphere polluted.

I belong to the coalfield area so I can claim that the industries are causing pollution. There are 13 coal washrie in Bihar and they all are polluting the water. There is no watch or control on it. Though Pollution Control Boards and many other institutions are working yet the pollution is increasing due to non-compliance of laws in this regard. The purpose of this Bill should not only to create the opportunity to earn money but also to control the increasing pollution and to control the ill-effects over the human lives. In the same way all the fishing industries, which earn foreign exchange worth crores of rupees and make us exporter, are being affected.

Therefore,I would like to state that the pollution is badly affecting the human life, atmosphere and fishing industries also. So

[Sh. Mumtaz Ansari]

the hon. Minister should reconsider the provisions of the Bill and the Concession which has been reduced to 25% from 70% on the use of water, should not be applicable to be drinking water. In case of Industrial use of water, it is proper to reduce the concession. It has also been said that one, who uses water more than a certain limit, will not, get rebate. I want to say that it can be strictly applied to industrial use of water but drinking water should be kept free from this norm.

17. 00 hrs.

Besides it, the provision is also being made to increase the rate of interest if rule 25 is not observed. But it is good if it is done with industrial use of water. But I strongly oppose its application on drinking water. It is not proper.

Mr. Chairman you have stated that powers of the officials should be increased so that they may be capable to realise the cess. I think they have sufficient powers under the existing laws. So there will be no use of giving more power to them. Instead, their responsibility should be increased so that they may realise the tax amount efficiently and make the exchequer rich. I conclude with these points.

[*English*]

SHRI P.C.THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Madam, I rise to support the Bill and I would like to limit myself to one point, In fact, it has been spoken to by many of the Members here. It is a menace the the factories and many of the industries we have are polluting the waterways, the water which is a great treasure, as far as we are concerned.

I have a very concrete example in my State. We have the FACT factory which produces fertilizers. In my constituency there is a wing of this factory. From the factory the effluents from FACT are being flowed into a river which abuts the factory premises. The river is called Chittarapuzha river. This has been going on for the past about 17 years. Though, from the previous two Governments as well as from this Government several answers have been elicited to some questions which were put to the Government in Lok Sabha, that proper would be taken in this regard, the menace continues and the continuing loss Is very great.

I can cite one example where about 200 acres of land which abuts this river has become totally uncultivable for the post about 16 years because of these effluents flowing into this river. This is only one example.

Now, what compensation can we give for this continuing loss that has been occurring? In fact, there is absolutely no scope in any way, to compensate such huge losses which citizens are incurring. On the one hand we speak about the industry and development of industry, but we have also to see that the environment is protected as well as the consequences of polluting environment such as those polluting the waterways and rivers are dealt with very strongly.

I take this opportunity to urge upon the Minister to take this as a specific case and I shall ever give a separate memorandum to him so that he can taken it as a specific case and taken action thereon. This is one example and there are ever so many examples to be quoted. But I am not going into those.

While the Minister takes great interest in amending the law in regard to prevention of water pollution, he may also take into consideration this type of menace which is being continued.

I do not want to go into the details of the Bill. I wholeheartedly support this Bill and submit that this is a good step the Minister has taken.

SHRI. P.C. CHACKO (Trichur): Madam Chairperson, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on this Bill. In fact, I appreciate the eagerness of the Chairperson to wind up the discussion as early as possible since it started on the 20th.

Without repeating what has already been said, I would like to invite the attention of the hon. Minister to a very vital question concerning this subject. The limited purpose of this Bill is to increase the cess on water. I am not aware as to how much quantum of money the Government is expecing on account of the cess on drinking water. My request to the hon. Minister is this. The additional cess on drinking water may not be increased. I do not think that the increase which is proposed is unreasonable by any standard. But that will unnecessarily give a leverage to people to say that even water is costly.

The most important thing is that water pollution is increasing day by day and the authorities, who are supposed to take care of this, are behaving in a very indifferent way.

Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee was explaining about the air pollution in Calcutta because of carbon monoxide emission from the automobiles and all these. I am sure that it does not come under this and all of us, especially the Minister, know that Calcutta is polluted in many ways, which has no remedy at the moment...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Not only in Calcutta but in other places also...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO: Not only carbon monoxide pollution but also ideological pullution is also affecting Calcutta. That is a different matter. We cannot help it. But the problems is that...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Madam, Delhi is the most pulluted city. It is admitted. Pullution is increasing every day with you contribution... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): That is our capital...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You come to Calcutta for education and enlightenment. Ask Mr. Kamal Nath. He comes there for earning money...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO: Madam, Shri Somnath Chatterjee was saying about the old Calcutta and not the present Calcutta, I mean, the Calcutta of Jyoti Basu. Nobody can help it.

The point that I want to make is that the State Pullution Control Boards and the Central Pollution Control Board, which are to control the water pullution, are not doing their job properly.

I would like to throe a very mild challenge to the dynamic Minister. Let the Minister may a visit to at least a dozen factories, which are emitting industrial effluents into the rivers, and take a sample and make a study, analysis of it. Madam, the BOD content in the industrial effluents which are being discharged into the river are far beyond the permissible level. I do not think that anybody has been taken to task. Maybe stray instances were there.

I come from a State, which has many rivers with fresh river water. Kerala State is grossly under-industrialised State. In spite of that, one or two industries which are there are polluting the whole river and thereby the whole State. My friend, Shri Charles, has said that epidemic is being spread in the waterlogged areas of Kerala killing crores all crores of rupees worth of fish. There is no solution found for this. Where is our Pollution Control Board? The scientists are saying that it is because of this and that. But crores and crores of rupees worth of fish is being damaged and lakhs of fishermen are surviving only because of free ration supplied by the State Government. They cannot go for catching fish. If they catch, those cannot be sold. Only with the support of the State Government they are surviving.

This vital question of the water pollution is leading to too many calamities and we are sitting on it and sleeping. Where is the Central Pullution Control Board? How many industrial units which are discharging toxic

[Sh. P.C. Chacko]

effluent to the river waters are being taken to task? To make a request to our dynamic Minister to take the sleeping pollution Control Boards whether at the State or Central level, to task and make them do their duty. Otherwise, the toxicants will continue to be pumped into the river waters polluting the whole country.

I strongly support the mesures proposed in the Bill and I also request the Minister to consider my humble suggestion regarding drinking water.

[*Translation*]

SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH (Buxar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to oppose the Bill which propose to levy a cess on drinking water. I support other provisions. There are certain places in this country where poor people are in dire need of drinking water. No drinking water facilities exist for poor people of tribal areas. I got an occasion to visit Ghatshila recently. People of many villages requested that provision exists for handpumps from Legislator's quota so it should be installed for drinking water purposes. Water had to be stored in olden days, the same situation exists today. Government has not made proper arrangements for supply of drinking water. I am of the opinion that the same situation exist not only in Bihar but also in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. There may not be any such State where people donot face acute shortage of water during summer season. They have to fetch water from large distances. Proper arrangements should be made for water facilities, though long time has elapsed since Independence. There is a talk for along about the problems of pollution of water. The Ganga is a sacred river. Industrial effluents are discharged in it. So Ganga water is being contaminated. Previously, Ganga water remained clear for as long as ten to twenty days. But now germs appear in it even in two-three days. The Government always makes announcements that no effluents would be allowed to be discharged in Ganga.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

17.14 hrs.

Hundreds of crores of rupees are spent on it but it is not know where does all this money go. It is replied that our Government was not in power and the Government formed by other party came to power so work could not be done satisfactorily. I would like to say that the work was done quite satisfactorily but whatever work was done in forty years was undone in just one and a half years. When any Bill is brought forward and law is enacted, it is good but that law should be implemented so that it may prove beneficial to the country. There is a factory in Amjhor in district Rohtas. The farmers had donated land very enthusiastically. Since that factory has been commissioned the crops are damaged in the radius of about two kilometres. Previously, farmers used to get a paddy produce of thirty to forty maunds. Today, things have been brought to such a pass that the standing crops get damaged. The Government do not make any arrangements and the seeds do not sprout in that land. I would like to submit to the hon. Minister, through you, that where there are factories, crops in those areas get damaged. The Government must provide compensation to those farmers. If it is not possible then Government should ask the factory to provide the compensation for the damaged crops. I have just now mentioned about the case of Amjhor. I had paid a visit there last year and now I have also been there. People there say the crops there have been damaged because the soil has turned alkaline due to which crops do not grow. So the effluents from factories should not be allowed to be discharged in the rivers from whose water irrigation is done. The effluents from the factories should be discharged at places away from fields os that crops are not damaged. The effluents from Amjhor factory are discharged into some river. Five lakh farmers irrigate their fields by water of Some Canal twenty two lakh acres of land. If the effluents from Amjhor today continued to be discharged, the present damage to crops in 2 to 4 lakh acres of land would escalate to entire 28 lakh acres of land. So measures should be taken by the Government to stop the effluents from being discharged into Some River so that the crops of the farmers are not damaged.

Along with this, the water of the Ganga is also getting polluted. The Hindus belive it to be the purest river. Their faith in Ganga is shaking and their sentiments are being hurt. Efforts should be made to stop the discharge of effluents from any factory in India into Ganga water. We would then be able to drink the water of Ganga as we did in the past.

Arrangements should be made for proper supply of drinking water in the areas where such facilities do not exist. Factories have many sources fo income so we have no objection if taxes are levied on them. But fifty percent of the population live below the poverty line and if cess on drinking water is levied, they would be hit hard. Therefore, I oppose the provision of living a cess.

In the end, I would like to urge the Government that strict vigil may be kept to ensure that waters of the Ganga, the Yamuna and the Saryu are not polluted. At the same time, arrangements for the supply of water to the poorer regions of Adivasi areas of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan should be made so that people may not suffer due to scarcity of water.

While opposing the Bill I conclude with these words.

[*English*]

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the pollution problem in India in a serious national problem. One reason is that our population is very large and we lack necessary facilities, but another important reason is lack of social awareness, social consciousness. That also very significantly contributed to the pollution problem, whether it is water pollution or air pollution. The problem is so serious that only in one State, Punjab, six thousand industrial units have been indentified which are contributing to water pollution. Out of 70,000 industrial units of Haryana, most of them are also contributing to the pollution. These are two small but neighbouring States of the capital. Therefore, I am drawing the attention of the Government that how serious the problem is.

In Ganga water, the seriousness of the problem can be measured from the fact that more than one million liters of polluted water goes to Ganga everyday in Haridwar and near about Haridwar. It is also said that in Uttar Pradesh, 23 per cent of the total pollutions because of the Ganga water. Therefore, the problem is very serious and enormous. I am glad that lately this consciousness in growing in the country and the Government is also aware that something very effective is to be done to control the pollution in our country. Otherwise it is going to cause a great damage to our children, to our population and also to the general atmosphere and environment of our country.

Government is making certain efforts. But it is not enough only to set up some pollution control boards and then feel that the work will be done. I think that then hon. Minister has been taking certain steps. But it needs much more to be done. A national integrated approach or a national integrated scheme has to be worked out for immediate action and also for long-term action. Both things have to be done simultaneously so that concrete steps are taken.

One problem that we all notice is that the toxic waste coming from the factories, particularly the chemical factories, is causing a lot of damage to the crops in the nearby localities of the factories and also to the animals. I had the occasion to go to Allahabad and visit the Phulpur fertiliser factory. This factory was established in the very beginning by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, which was in his constituency and which has become one of the prime fertiliser factories of our

[Sh. Chandra Jeet Yadav]

country. Now this factory has done such a great damage to hundreds and thousands of farmers in the locality that they suffer heavily because the toxic waste goes in an open nala. Even today, in spite of the fact that the workers and the peasants and the political parties agitated in that area for a long time, nothing effective has been done till now. It is just one example. But this thing is happening in many such factories which are chemical-based factories.

Without taking much time of the House. I would like to make one or two suggestions in this regard. Many things have come up here during the discussion. I hope that the hon. Minister, who is keen to do something, will take note of my suggestions and consider them.

I would like to say that a proper effort has to be made to create public and social awareness and consciousness in our country. I suggest that you kindly have a meeting of some public figures, public originisations - who are voluntary organisations - so that they can also launch a kind of anti-pollution movement, particularly to educate the people. You must have sought the opinion of experts. I do not know. I am told that the solar radiation system is a major source which can dispollute the drinking water. If the water is put in a certain quantity, even in an open space - say on the roof of the house- for certain hours then it becomes free from pollution. If this is correct, let the people know because we are lack of the sources. If it is done and the people know that this method is an efective method to make the drinking water free from pollution, I think that it will go a long way to help our people and particularly we need not spend any money on it.

The second thing I would like to say that the Television and Radio have to be utilized for this purpose on a larger scale. Every day you can teach certain methods which are necessary and which can be understood by the people. You are now showing. Certain ideas/programmes on population control. Like this you have to do something for anti-pollution drive. I think this idea will work. That should also be done. I think that it is also advisable - you know yourself that in western countries there is already a powerful movement. In the United States of America and in most European countries where the pollution problem is there, there are strong public movements, particularly women are playing a very important role, youth are playing an important role, then why should we not see that our Universities, our colleges and our school teachers, especially the school teachers - don't go only to the universities, the primary school teachers can play an important role because almost in every gram panchayat, now we have a primary school, and if not in every gram panchayat, at least in every two gram panchayats there is one school and therefore, I think that the primary school teachers should also be used for this kind of public movement against this.

Sir, I am told that even 13 or 15 rivers which have been identified to make them free from pollution, a thousand crores of rupees are needed only for anti-pollution scheme for those 13 or 15 rivers. The money is going to be enormous and we are short of resources. That is one problem that we have. Therefore, I think from the very beginning,one problem that we are going to face is that now after delicensing if effective measures are not taken and if district authorities and local authorities are not vigilant, anybody can go and set up a factory anywhere he or she wishes, and that will be the major problem, you cannot look at everything from Delhi or from the State Capital. Therefore, clear instructions, certain guidelines, have to be given to district authorities as well as local authorities so that while seeing that the new industries where small or medium if they are being set up, they should be set up keeping in view certain norms which are necessary for anti-pollution drive.

I think, sir that the Members of Parliament and the Members of Legislature should also play an important role, they must also see that guidelines are prepared; on certain schemes which the Government is formulating I think that they can also play a role in educating people and in creating public awareness. My emphasis is that whatever the Government is doing, they must do; they must see particularly that chemical based industries, their norms and forms which are necessary to control pollution, they should be strictly adhered to. But besides that, what has to be done through public education and by creating public consciousness, that should also be done and that will take us a long way.

Lastly, I think the Minister should consider, it has been raised by several Members here, increasing of cess on drinking water. I think he must consider this. I am not saying it, but really speaking, the problem is not that he will increase his cess and drinking water will become pollution free water. Most of the town areas, the municipalities, even the corporation they do not have proper drainages, they do not have proper sewerage and they are the main sources of pollution. I would like to know whether the Government, in consultation or coordination with the State Government, will given priority to that and at least in the townships which are already in existence or new township which are coming, whether something effective with time-bound programme can be done to see that proper drainage and sewerage systems are, really speaking, provided to these cities and the population of those cities.

These are certain suggestions which I thought the Minister should take into consideration.

17.30 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Eighth Report

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): Sir, I bag to present the Eighth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

17.30 1/2 hrs

WATER (PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF POLLUTION AMENDMENT) BILL-

Contd

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now Shri Akber Pasha .

SHRI B. AKBER PASHA (Vellore): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir I come from Vellore constituency which has got a concentration of tanneries. There had been a problem of pollution. I am the President of the Tanners Association for the last two decades. It is not the intention of the tanners to pollute the water and to cause ecological problems and health hazards to the common people. We as well as the other industrialists are very much interested to set up effluent treatment plants to control water pollution. I happy to be a leather Technician with a post graduate degree and an industrialist having tanneries and shoe factories. I served as tanners Representative of the Care Committee of the Tank Force for Tannery effluent treatment, organised by Central Leather Research Institutes Madras at comprised not only the senior scientists of the Central Lather Research Institute but also the representatives

[Sh. B. Akber Pasha]

from NEERI professors for the Engineering College, Madras and other people. We come to a conclusion that biological treatment will be the cheapest and the best for the treatment of pollution of tannery effluents. We are trying to get some remedial measures and financial aid from the Central and the State Governments. The Central and the State Government are giving a subsidy of 50 per cent of the total cost of the effluent treatment. The four major towns which are, perhaps, responsible for about 60 per cent of the total tanning that is taking place in India are Peranampet, Vaniambadi, Ambur and Ranipet, all in North Arcot District. There is a concentration of Tanneries in these places. We were asked to contribute 25 per cent of the needed share capital which is about 8 crores and we had already done that. The balance 25% the tanners will borrow from State Financial Institutions. The State and the Central Governments had also given their contribution, but the tanners are harassed and prosecuted for the delay. There is some delay in the work. The work is being managed by the official of the Tamil Nadu Leather Development Corporation which is State Government at Madras. They frequently change the engineers and official and they talk their own time in execution. Sometimes, we have rain. For example, we had too much of rains recently and the work got suspended.

Then, there is another technical point. We were asked to confine ourselves to 30 BOD for the effluent treated water let out from tanneries and it is very difficult. Some of the private tanneries have put up effluent treatment plants and they find it very difficult to maintain that level. We took up the matter with the Central Research Institute and they have recommended 150 for the outgoing treated water (from tanneries) but the Pollution Control Board authorities in Madras do not agree to it. They want that 30 BOD should be maintained which is very difficult. We took the Corporation water for analysis and to our surprise we found that the BOD is about 200. When they want us to maintain 30 BOD the drinking water that is given by the Corporation does not adhere to that standard. These are the anomalies which are prevalent. The tanneries have fully contributed their share capital which was needed. The delay is from the State Govt. Body TALCO. Initially the tanners of this region have formed a registered society to take up the work. Later, the Govt. has ashked us to hand over the project (Tamil Nadu Leather Development Corporation (TALCO), which we have done Now TALCO is manning it. If there is delay in execution of the work, it is due to various seasons. The tanners should not be penalised for this tanners.

While I welcome the proposed cess bill, it should be applicable to such of those tanners who had not joined the common effluent treatment and who have not contributed fully to the share capital falling to their share.

These are a few salient points which I wanted to bring to the notice of the hon. House and the hon Environment Minister.

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all, I want to congratulate the Government for introducing Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess (Amendment) Bill to combat the problem of pollution. This is commendable. Pollution is a big problem and even the sages in the Vedic age also expressed their concern over it through Veda Mahtra "Om Dyo Shanti Antariksha Shanti Prithvi Shantirapa" "Aapa" It means water must be pure. It was stated in this Mantra that the Earth, the Space and the Air-all these natural forces - should be peaceful. Then the importance of water was realised through words "Jalam evam Jivanam." The same thing and been realised by our poet Abdurraheem Khankhana. When he said. "Rahiman Pani rakhiye bin pani sab soon, pani gaye na ubare moti, manas choon." It clearly illustrates that the purity and cleanliness was given prime consideration right from the beginning. Our sages envisaged five Mahayagyas. One of them was called Devyagya which has been described for natural forces as to how to keep them put and clean and free from pollution. And for this, purpose they envisaged 'Agnihotra' Yagya. Some of my colleagues may be having objection to it but they can read the old scriptures. In those olden times, the environment was kept pollution free because people used to perform 'haven' and yagayas in every house which cleaned all type of pollution such as air, water and other. I would like to say that pollution has become a gigantic problem today which is a matter of serious concern. According to the Institute for National Environment and Research Council, seventy per cent of the total water resources in India have become polluted. A Report of a survey conducted in respect of water of 29 rivers and test carried out has revealed that water of all the twenty nine rivers is polluted to a great extent with an exception of Ganga at Garhmukteshwar and Teesta at Jalpaiguri. Majority of the deseases are caused by the use of the water of these rivers.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the judgement given by the Supreme Court in which it has been pronounced that the industrial licences of all those factories should be cancelled or licences not given to them who cannot destroy their industrial waste, dirt, filth, effluents etc. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister and of the House to three main cities of Rajasthan and submit that the Supreme Court took note of the pollution in those three cities and in other places. There is Bhichri village near Udaipur where dying and printing work of textiles is done for Pali city and Balotara. The effluent of the chemicals used for this work are flushed out in water. Due to this lakhs of acres of lands of farmers around Pali city is being polluted. No crops grow there and the pollution has even reached the deep well also. The water in Pali, Bhichri and Balotara has been polluted. The water is not worth drinking there. The people who drink that water have fallen sick and are suffering from incurable diseases.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in Sarwar in Ajmer District, children get hunch-backed and catch many sorts of incurable diseases by drinking polluted water. A research was carried out. The Rajasthan Government and the Central Government conducted a survey and then arrangements were for the supply of clean drinking water. But still there are many places which are facing similar problems. Many hon Members have highlighted the problemsI would like to submit that the water of Pushkar lake has been polluted a few years back where lakhs of people take holy dip on the full-moon day of Kartika and consider themselves fortunate. The fish in the lake have died. Many hotels have been constructed on the banks of Pushkar lake in the name of foreign tourists. The water of lake is polluted by the dirty water containing liquor from these hotels which is flushed into the lake. The hon.Minister must be aware of this fact. The Government must pay attention to the problems of environmental pollution whether it concerns the question of water-pollution as a whole or environment around Pushkar lake.

Ajmer is a historic city. Lakh of people visit Dargah Sharif every year and offer prayers there. The drainage and sewerage system is not up to the kark there. The water which gets accumulated in Aana Sagar lake starts strinking. Clean drinking water is not available to people in Ajmer. Therefore, I would like to draw your attention to the problems of water pollution in various cities of Rajasthan.I welcome the new amendments but at the same time, I would like to submit that four factors are worth paying attention. Firstly, pollution control devices should be installed to purify the water, where the water of the rivers has been polluted by the chemical effluents discharged by the factories, these device should be installed by the industrialist. Even if the industrialist who does not follow the rules, his industrial licences should be cancelled. Even if the water is contaminated by the effluents, then the affected people should be provided compensation by the industrialists. Precautions should be taken in the procedure to be adopted for deciding the site of industrial plots. otherwise, what the industrialist will do is that they will accept the favourable sites

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

and would try to avoid the other which don't suit them. It should not like owning up all that is sweet and rejecting all that us bitter. Factories are opened without much consideration if powerful political pressures are exerted and where such pressures are not exerted, factories are not established. Impartial attitude should be adopted in selecting industrial sites.

Co-operation of local influential people should also be taken. The people should be made conscious. People should have a right to know about the factory to be set up in their locality and if there will be a problem of water pollution due to it. It should also be ensured that the water level of wells does not go down.

Recently a serious disease broke out in Pushkar. All the trees of guava near Pushkar have gone dry. All the agricultural experts went there and conducted various tests but they failed to find out the cause. Later on it was discovered that it is due to water or air pollution and the gardens have been destroyed by it.

A reference was made to seting up on an Environment Court. Environment court should be granted ample powers and the people should be made known the jurisdiction of these courts. unless the Government enlists the help of the people, and educates the people about the diseases caused by polluted water and how it can be controlled, this problems can not be solved. A proper training should be given in this respect and it should be included in the school curricula and text books. In ancient days we were told:

"Drishtipootam nysetpadam, vastrapootam jalam pivet". It means one should have pious views, march forward and take clean water after filtering it. Earlier Dev yajna and other big yajnas were organised to improve the environment. Such yajnas should be organised. Yajna means ghee, and valuable articles. Pollution can be controlled by organising such big yajnas. It should also be considered.

In the end I would like to submit one point only that no cess should be levied on the water for domestic use. The rebate should continue. If you want to give rebate to factories and enhance taxes you can do so but the common people should get relief. With these words . I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT (Nandarbar): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I thank the hon. Minister for introducing this Bill. The provisions made in this Bill are praise-worthy. I do not want to seak more on it because there has been a lot of discussion on it. Effluents from industries are discharged into the rivers and drains and the water of rivers becomes polluted. I come from Maharashtra. There are many industries in a city like Surat, which are causing pollution. Due to these industries there is a lot of pollution. Water Pollution Control Board does not pay attention to it. Protection of environment is very essential. Afforestation is very essential to protect the environment. Rain is gradually decreasing and water level is also going down. There has been drought in Maharashtra. Water is not available even after boring the wells 250 and 300 feet deep. More afforestation will help more rains. Therefore, attention should be paid to it.

We have had enough discussion on pollution in the House. Hon. Minister knows it well that pollutien has increased too much in big cities like Bombay and Calcutta. Nobody pays attention to the Motor Vehicles Act. Trucks, Metadors and motor-cars emit too much smoke but nobody bothers about it In such a situation their permit should be cancelled, only then pollution will be controlled. Presently forests are being cut on large scale.

The Government of my state Maharashtra decided to allot land to landless adivasis from 1972 to 1978, through enacting a law but it has not been implemented till now. So the forest land is being encroached regularly and due to stay granted by the Supreme Court the forest land cannot be got vacated.

Lower the forest cover lower the rains and poor rains mean non-availabiity of pure drinking water. Therefore, all the provisions of this amendment are very good.

Hon. Minister should also pay attention to the forest land. With this request, I conclude my speech.

SHRI TEJ SINGHRAO BHONSLE: (Ramtek): Mr. Chairman Sir, I rise to support the Water Pollution (Prevention and Control) Cess (Amendment) Bill.

There was a time when it was said that majority of our people lived in villages. 80% of our population lived in the villages but now 40% of the population has migrated to the cities and 60% people live in the villages. For instance, there are almost 250 Municipalities and 11 Corporations in Maharashtra. No Municipality has water treatments plants and under-drainage system except Corporations. I would like to request that some arrangements must be made in this respect.

Big industries are being set up in places like Ganga Valley, Krishna Valley and Godavari Valley, which were abode our culture. Power generating plants are also there. These are causing pollution in the river water. The water flowing through Aradi Thermal Power Station contains a very much quantity of ash and thus becomes polluted and the same water is being used by 20 lakh people of Nagpur for drinking purposes. Tomorrow, if not today, it will create a serious problem there. Condition of the other cities is also the same. It is very difficult to find out the way as to how the pollution of the waters of Godavari and Krishna rivers being caused by big sugar factories and distilleries on their banks, can be controlled. In my opinion, it is the basic idea behind bringing forward this amendment by the hon. Minister.

Tax rebate has been reduced from 705% to 25%. I think this provision is not a reasonable one and people will face a lot of difficulties due to this provision. I, therefore, would like that the Government should reconsider this provision once again. Pollution Control Plants should be installed in the big factories like Paper Mill, Sugar Mill, Chemical industries Alchohol preparing plant from Molsses, Coal Washeries etc.

Our Children should also learn something about these things in colleges and schools and the Government should do something for it. There is a feeling of disappointment among the people about pollution. The Government should help to remove this feeling. As people have been made conscious about the afforestation, the Government should make them conscious also about the ill effects of water pollution. If the Government make publicity through Radio and T.V., the people can get benefit and the problem can be some what reduced.

Hon. Member Shri Rawat said that all the industries of Rajasthan should be closed. I oppose this statement. If all the factories are closed, then what will be the fate of the labourers working in these factories. Perhaps he has forgotten them. Whatever mistakes have been committed, these should now be rectified. Water treatment plants should be installed wherever required but you should not lay stress on closure of factories. While supporting this Bill. I would like to request the Government to reconsider the increase In the tax and with these words, I conclude.

SHRI AYUB KHAN (Jhunjhunu): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I am grateful to you that you have given me an opportunity to speak on this Bill. First of all, I would like to congratulate our hon. Minister that he has Introduced a good bill in the House. It is a good bill to safeguard the interests of the country. I support this bill.

First of all, I would like to tell you that the prevention of water pollution is very essential. The pollution of which is being created by the BJP in the country, must also be controlled... (*Interruptions*)... I belong to Rajasthan and the largest problem of Rajasthan is that of potable water. People have to travel 10—15 Kms. to fetch water. I would like to tell you that people store water in

[Sh. Ayub Khan]

indigenous water tanks. Both the animals and the human beings drink water from the same pond, which is collected during the rainy season. People of Rajasthan suffered from a typical disease named NAHHRAWA, which afflicts particularly the legs of the farmers and the poor. So I would like to submit that some arrangements should be made to remove the pollution from that area so that the people may be saved from diseases. A large number of people of that area join army to serve the nation. In the army, soldiers are provided a water tablet to put it into the water so that it becomes potable. Similar arrangements should also be made there so that the water can become potable. In my constituency there is Khetri project, its water is very much polluted and due to it the agricultural land is turning into desert. Alongwith this the atmosphere is also being polluted. The Government should take some measures to improve it, and the Govemment should order setting up of a plant there so that the pollution can be controlled. These measures will benefit the farmers and their agriculture too. I would like to congratulate you for the exemption given through the Bill but such steps should be taken as may not hurt the feelings of the people and they can pay the taxes happily. I would like to quote a couplet in this regard:-

"Farde Kayam rabte millat se hai,
Tanha Kuchh, nahin
Mauj dariya main hai,
Bairune dariya kuchh nahin"

I would like submit that we should all join lands to check pollution and make our country strong. If we increase pollution, we will ruin our country. I make a special request to BJP in this regard.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now the discussion on this present subject is over. Next day the hon. Minister will reply.

The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow at 11 a.m.

18.00 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, November 28, 1991/ Agrahayana7, 1913 (Saka)

Printed at S. Narayan & Sons, Delhi-110006.